

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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P 232255Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2930

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, VE

SUBJECT: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: STATE 094266

1. VENEZUELAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IS WELL ORGANIZED, EFFECTIVE, AND WELL FINANCED ORGANIZATION WITH PERMANENT PROFESSIONAL STAFF. CHAMBER HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 25 YEARS, HAS 811 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND REPRESENTS 356 CORPORATE MEMBERS.
2. EMBASSY-CHAMBER RELATIONSHIP IS EXCELLENT. WE ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE INFORMATION AND CONTACT EXCHANGE. THROUGH AMBASSADOR'S MONTHLY BUSINESSMEN'S MEETING, BOTH PARTIES HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUED DIALOGUE REGARDING BROAD SPECTRUM OF PROBLEMS AND ISSUES.
3. DESPITE CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMBASSY AND CHAMBER, CHAMBER DESIRES AND MAINTAINS SEPARATE PUBLIC IMAGE AS INDEPENDENT ENTITY. CHAMBER SHUNS ANY ACTIVITY WHICH WOULD PUBLICLY DEMONSTRATE STRONG TIES WITH EMBASSY. RECENT EMBASSY OFFER TO SHARE SPONSORSHIP OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SEMINAR WAS REJECTED BY CHAMBER FOR THIS REASON.
4. CHAMBER HAS EASY ACCESS TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL GOV OFFICIALS AND ON MAJOR ISSUES HAS EVEN MET WITH PRESIDENT, E.G. REGARDING EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA FROM GSP IN 1974 TRADE ACT.
5. CHAMBER ACTIVITIES NOT CONFINED TO VENEZUELA, BUT INCLUDE

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LOBBYING EFFORTS IN UNITED STATES THROUGH WASHINGTON LAW FIRM

RETAINED BY CHAMBER.

6. REGARDING PARA 4 REFTTEL, EMBASSY NOW IS RECIPIENT OF MUCH
GENERAL INQUIRY CORRESPONDENCE DIRECTED TO CHAMBER AND PASSED
TO US FOR REPLY. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO EXPLORE
OTHER AVENUES OF COOPERATION SHOULD THEY BE PROPOSED.
SHLAUDEMAM

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